Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who proudly serve the United States and risk their lives to protect our freedom; deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and,

Whereas, Combat operational stress has historically been viewed as a mental illness caused by a pre-existing flaw of character and/or ability; and the term Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and,

Whereas, Post-traumatic stress can occur not only after a traumatic event experienced in combat, but also rape, sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement, child abuse, car accidents, train wrecks, plane crashes, bombings, and/or natural disasters; and,

Whereas, Referring to the complications from post-traumatic stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and this stigma discourages those suffering from post-traumatic stress from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and,

Whereas, Making the condition less stigmatizing and more honorable can favorably influence those affected, encourage them to seek timely treatment help without fear of retribution or shame, and diminish suicide rates; and,

Whereas, All citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury deserve our consideration, those who have received these wounds in service to our nation further deserve our respect and recognition:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 27, 2016, as

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS DAY

in South Dakota, and encourage our Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Health, and Department of the Military to continue working to educate service members, veterans, the families of service members and veterans, victims of abuse, crime and natural disaster, and the general public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fifteenth Day of June in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Sixteen.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State